AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for a document processing server to process communications between a sender and at least one recipient and to verify an identity of the sender and the at least one recipient for establishing a secured communication channel, the method comprising:

at the document processing server:

obtaining a request from the sender to transmit an electronic document to at least one recipient;

obtaining an electronic document corresponding to the request from the sender, wherein the electronic document is encrypted with an encryption key corresponding solely to the sender and the document processing server;

processing the electronic document wherein processing the electronic document includes encrypting the electronic document with an encryption key corresponding solely to at least one recipient and the document processing server;

verifying the identity of the designated at least one recipient and the identity of the sender;

upon verification, establishing a secured communication channel with the at least one recipient;

transmitting the processed electronic document to the designated at least one recipient;

wherein the sender and the designated at least one recipient do not verify the identity of each other; and

wherein the sender and the designated at least one recipient do not ~~exchange~~ share encryption keys.

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2. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein obtaining a request to transmit an electronic document includes obtaining a request via an Internet Web browser.

3. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein obtaining an electronic document includes:

establishing a secure communication connection with the sender; and

obtaining an encrypted document.

4. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 3, wherein establishing a secure communication connection includes establishing a secure sockets layer communication channel.

5. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein obtaining a request from the sender to transmit an electronic document includes obtaining a request to append an electronic signature corresponding to the sender to the electronic document.

6. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein processing the electronic document includes:

appending an electronic signature corresponding to the sender; and

encrypting the electronic signature corresponding to the sender with a sender specific encryption key.

7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein establishing a communication channel with the at least one recipient includes:

transmitting an electronic mail message to the designated at least one recipient, the electronic mail message including a unique identifier; and

obtaining a communication from the designated at least one recipient including the unique identifier.

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8. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the unique identifier is a hyperlink, and wherein establishing a communication channel includes obtaining a request to access a Web site corresponding to the hyperlink.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 47, wherein the identity verification includes a unique identifier submitted with a request.

11. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 47, wherein the identity verification includes a password.

12. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 47, wherein the identity verification includes verification from a third-party source.

13. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising transmitting a verification corresponding to the identity of a sender to the designated at least one recipient.

14. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising:

obtaining a request to append an electronic signature corresponding to the recipient to the electronic document;

logically associating an electronic signature corresponding to the designated at least one recipient; and

encrypting the electronic signature corresponding to the designated at least one recipient with a recipient specific encryption key.

15. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 14 further comprising:

establishing a communication channel with a second designated recipient; and

transmitting the processed electronic document to the designated second recipient;

wherein the sender and the designated second recipient do not exchange encryption keys.

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16. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 15 further comprising:

obtaining a request to append an electronic signature corresponding to the second recipient to the electronic document;

logically associating an electronic signature corresponding to the second recipient; and

encrypting the electronic signature corresponding to the second recipient with a second recipient specific encryption key.

17. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in any one of Claims 1-16.

18. (Previously presented) A computer system including a processor, a memory, and an operating system, the computer system configured to perform the method recited in any one of Claims 1-16.

19. (Currently amended) A system for processing communications, the system comprising:

a sender computing device configured to transmit a request to process an electronic document;

at least one recipient computing device corresponding to an identifiable communication channel; and

a document processing server, the document processing server configured to verify the identities of the sender computing device and the at least one recipient computing device and to establish secure communications with the sender computing device and the at least one recipient computing device;

wherein the document processing server processes an electronic document and transmits the processed electronic document between the sender computing device and the recipient computing device without the sender computing device and the at least one recipient computing device ~~exchanging~~ sharing encryption keys and wherein the document processing server

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processes the electronic documents with an encryption key corresponding solely to the document processing server and the recipient computing device; and

wherein the sender computing device and the at least one recipient computing device do not verify the identity of each other.

20. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 19, wherein the sender computing device includes a browser application program configured to request a Web page for requesting the processing of the electronic document.

21. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 20, wherein the browser application is configured to establish a secure communication channel with the document processing server without additional participation by a sender.

22. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 21, wherein the secure communication channel is a secure sockets layer communication channel.

23. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 21, wherein the secure communication channel is a transport layer security communication channel.

24. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 19, wherein the request to process the electronic document includes a request to append a signature corresponding to a sender to the electronic document.

25. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 24, wherein the document processing server is further configured to:

logically associate the electronic signature corresponding to the sender to the electronic document; and

encrypt the electronic signature corresponding to the sender with a sender specific encryption key.

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26. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 19, wherein the recipient computing device is configured to obtain electronic mail message including a unique identifier corresponding to a recipient and further configured to establish a secure communication channel with the document processing server.

27. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 26, wherein the recipient computing device includes a browser application configured to establish a secure communication channel with a document processing server without requiring additional participation by a recipient.

28. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 27, wherein the browser application establishes a secure sockets layer communication channel.

29. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 27, wherein the browser application establishes a transport layer security communication channel.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 48, wherein the identity verification is the possession of the unique identifier.

32. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 48, wherein the identity verification is the use of a password.

33. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 48, wherein the identity verification is the utilization of a third party verification service.

34. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 26, wherein the document processing server transmits sender identity verification to the recipient computing device.

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35. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 26, wherein the document processing server is further configured to:

append an electronic signature corresponding to the recipient to the electronic document; and

encrypt the electronic signature corresponding to the recipient with a recipient specific encryption key.

36. (Original) The system as recited in Claim 35 further comprising at least two recipient computing devices corresponding to at least two identifiable communication channels.

37. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for processing communications between a sender computing device and a plurality of recipient computing devices via a document processing server which receives from the sender computing device a request for transmitting a document to one of the plurality of recipient computing devices, the computer-readable medium comprising:

an interface component configured to allow secure communication ~~with~~ between the sender computing device and each of the plurality of recipient computing devices without requiring the exchange of encryption keys between the sender computing device and the each of the plurality of recipient computing devices;

a document processing component configured to verify the identity of the one of the plurality of recipient computing devices and the sender computing device and to process document requests from the sender computing device and append to the document at least an electronic signature corresponding to the sender;

wherein the interface component transmits the document to the one of the plurality of recipient computing devices which is designated by the sending computer device and wherein the document processing server processes the electronic documents with an encryption key corresponding solely to the document processing server and the recipient computing device;

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wherein the sender computing device does not verify the identity of the each of the plurality of recipient computing devices; and

wherein the each of the plurality of recipient computing devices does not verify the identity of the sender computing device.

38. (Previously presented) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim 37, wherein the interface component establishes a Web browser based secure communication.

39. (Original) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim 38, wherein the Web browser based secure communication is a secure sockets layer communication channel.

40. (Original) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim 38, wherein the Web browser based secure communication is a transport layer security communication channel.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously presented) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim 49, wherein the identity verification includes the possession of a unique identifier.

43. (Previously presented) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim 49, wherein the identity verification includes the utilization of a password.

44. (Previously presented) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim 49, wherein the identity verification includes a third party verification service.

45. (Currently amended) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim 37, wherein the document processing component ~~is operable to append~~ appends an electronic signature corresponding to the recipient.

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46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein verifying the identity of the designated at least one recipient includes obtaining an identity verification from the designated at least one recipient.

48. (Previously presented) The system as recited in Claim 26, wherein the document processing server further obtains an identity verification from the at least one recipient and the sender.

49. (Previously presented) The computer-readable components as recited in Claim 37, wherein the document processing component obtains an identity verification from the each of the plurality of recipient computing devices and the sender computing device.

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